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■ **URBAN PLANNING:** Church Hill home rezoning request subject of legislated meeting Sept. 8

Fonthill five-plex plan perplexes neighbours

GREG FURNINGER
QMI Agency Niagara

When Dale Smith and his wife Amber Cuthbertson moved into their old home on Church Hill in downtown Fonthill three years ago, they fell in love with the quaint neighbourhood of older homes, stately trees and beautiful gardens.

Today they find themselves fighting to prevent a parking lot and related plan to convert a 1930s-era two-storey home next door into a five-plex.

"A five-apartment complex in this neighbourhood does not fit," said Smith. "What plan would be worse?"

A group of more than 40 concerned residents met last Tuesday evening to discuss the matter and to talk strategy to prevent it from being approved. Many of them again met Sunday to walk with the news media.

Neighbours were notified Aug. 19 by the town of plans for the property at 6 Church Hill that has a 49-foot frontage.

They are concerned about parking — including residents and visitors using a narrow driveway that abuts Smith's driveway at No. 8 — drainage and aesthetics. A proposed parking lot would consume about half the property, most of the rear yard, in an area now plagued with flooding.

"My biggest concern is where will the water go?" said Sandy Witteveen, who annually deals with spring-time soggy. "If this goes through) we're losing everything natural that's drinking that water."

See **HOUSE** on Page 2

GREG FURNINGER/STAFF PHOTO
Dale Smith and wife Amber Cuthbertson, seated on their front porch, are opposed to an application to rezone the downtown Fonthill home next to them at 6 Church Hill as a five-plex. Neighbours, including those pictured in the background next to the subject home, share their view.



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LOCAL NEWS

HOUSE

Fonthill five-plex plan perplexes neighbours

From Page 1

Witteveen, who has lived at 4 Church Hill for 22 years, is also concerned about the amount of garbage a five-plex would produce, and where it would be contained.

"If (councillors) say yes here, it's going to make it easier for the next one who applies," she said.

Because planned units are about 500 square feet, Sandy Fairbairn, who lives at 18 Church Hill, said the proposal is for "a rooming house."

The property, the former home of celebrated local artist Yolanda Varga Davis, was purchased this year by Todd Barber, whose Forestrygreen Creations Inc. Building and Landscaping designs offices are just steps away on Pelham St.

"I said, 'Todd, you're ruining our neighbourhood just to make a profit,'" Smith said.

Barber on Monday said he's "a little surprised" by the opposition, noting there's a five-plex on the north side of the street, and that his proposal fits in with Pelham's planning policies developed in recent years.

"The Town of Pelham encourages intensification in downtown Fonthill," he said, citing Pelham's official plan. "This is the first action."

He dismisses arguments that his plan is will de-value the neighbourhood.

"My company only does high-end work, and I'm doing this for my family's long-term investment," said Barber, who won recent Niagara Design Awards for Pelham's town square arches and for an infill building at 1471 Pelham St. that contains four retail units and



three 500-square-foot bachelor apartments.

Under planning policy, anyone could have bought the property at 6 Church Hill and made similar application, Barber said he wanted to ensure it was done to his standards: "I look at these as opportunities to do the right thing."

He said his plan calls for eight parking spots, instead of five, to alleviate on-street parking issues and that while he brought a number of options to the table, the municipality favoured a five-plex model.

"Their (the neighbours') concerns — they're looking for problems, while I'm looking for solutions," he said,

indicating stormwater issues will be managed properly.

Two rental units are to occupy the main home, while a 1980s addition with be replaced with a three-unit addition at the rear.

As far as neighbouring Victoria Gardens townhome resident Phyllis Paroshy is concerned, Barber's application has already been "rubber stamped."

"The long and short of it," said Cuthbertson, "is we don't have confidence in the planning department at this point."

She questioned why such a proposal is needed just blocks from the east Fonthill expansion area, which will yield

several hundred new housing units over the next two decades.

"They're applying intensification here and urban sprawl right over there," Cuthbertson said.

Barber said real growth, and the quiet maturity of the downtown area in which he now has set his sights on, won't be seen in east Fonthill for years.

"The same reason they love to live on Church Hill should be opened to others," he said.

A public meeting required by Ontario's Planning Act will take place in town council chambers on Monday, Sept. 8, starting 6:30 p.m.

A report on the proposal to



PHOTOS BY GREG FURMINGER/QUI-AGENCY NIAGARA

The home at 6 Church Hill in downtown Fonthill is proposed to be converted to a five-plex.

be received for information purposes only and to include remarks from commenting agencies and town departments — not for a recommendation to approve — will follow during the council session. It will be available to the public this Friday.

Comments received from the public will be considered while town staff prepare a final recommendation report for a future council meeting.

Mayor Dave Augustyn said, noting public delegations will be accepted then.

"Sometimes these things take forever," he said, adding a public meeting was held last September for the Rosewood subdivision, for which a recommendation report came forward for the first time Tuesday tonight.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ THE BIG MOVE

Memory of cancer doctor, volunteer inspires others

GRANT LAFLECHE
QMI Agency Niagara

If there is a circumstance that defined how Marty Samosh approached life, it was at last year's Big Move bike ride to raise money for the Walker Family Cancer Centre.

Samosh, an oncologist, was an avid cyclist. He took the sport seriously and would not fall to show up for the event, for any reason. It was just too important. "He had been in a fairly serious cycling accident a few months before," said Dr. Brian Findlay, who was Samosh's friend, colleague and fellow cyclist. "He broke his hip in the accident. He had only just healed, but he showed up to do the 100-km ride anyway."

The ride was more than just a way for Samosh to indulge his passion for cycling.

And the cause, the cancer centre, was more than just of professional significance. Samosh had survived lymphoma.

"Having cancer gave him an insight he didn't have before, but it didn't change his practice, which was always rooted in caring for the patients and the best medical practice," Findlay said.

Samosh was part of the ride since its inception six years ago. He became so

identified with it, he was featured on the posters advertising the 2012 event. But this year when the ride begins Sept. 7, he won't be among the riders. On March 7 at the age of 56, Samosh died. His cancer returned, this time attacking his brain.

His wife, Rosalie Samosh, said the diagnosis was a heavy burden for him because as an oncologist for nearly 30 years, he was more keenly aware than most about what his prognosis meant.

But his dedication to his patients and to the cancer centre has inspired others to stay involved, she said.

Rosalie Samosh will be at the event as a volunteer and Findlay will be part of a team of riders taking part in Marty's memory.

This year, the Big Move cancer ride aims to raise \$400,000 which will be used to purchase equipment for the cancer centre in St. Catharines.

As of Aug. 24, participants had raised just shy of \$142,000.

Riders can participate individually or on teams. Each rider has to raise a minimum of \$500 and can complete a 30-, 60- or 100-km course.

To register, go online to ofnhs.akaraisin.com and click on The Big Move on the right.

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COMMENT

Niagara Region term report: health and wellness

BRIAN BATY
For QMI Agency Niagara

In past articles I have provided an overview of the accomplishments of this term of regional council in terms of tax stability, governance and economic development. This article gives the "people" aspect of regional government as it relates to seniors, families and children as well as health and safety.

Seniors in Niagara are served through day programs and long-term care facilities in eight sites. Provincial mandates require only one long-term care facility. The fact that we have eight homes distributed throughout the region has been beneficial to family and caregivers. In fact we have nearly a one to one ratio of volunteers to residents because of the proximity of our homes to loved ones.

In this term we introduced Niagara's first convalescent care program, providing recuperative care to seniors prior to returning home from a hospital stay. We worked with partners to establish the South Niagara Health and Wellness Centre to support seniors at risk of hospitalization. As well,

\$8.6 million was invested to redevelop Deer Park Villa, the region's 39-bed long-term care facility in Grimsby. We achieved the highest level of accreditation for our homes from Accreditation Canada. Programs and services are provided annually to help seniors remain independent and in their homes. Ninety-eight per cent of regional long-term care residents are satisfied with services.

For children and families, we eliminated the wait list for child-care subsidies, enabling more parents to work, go to school or train for jobs. The region provides nearly 3,000 families annually with a child care subsidy. More than 2,000 children and youth were provided access to sports, recreational and cultural programs through the ProKids program. In partnership with YMCA of Niagara, we worked with child care and education partners to transition four- and five-year old children into Ontario's full-day kindergarten program. We introduced a physical health and nutrition program to all child-care operators with preschool-aged children. The M+2B (Mom and Baby-to-Be) program was launched as a free prenatal mobile device which offers information about planning a pregnancy through to birth. Well Baby Clinics and Parenting Drop-in centres were opened in Niagara Falls, Welland and St. Catharines, providing support and information about baby health and development.

Health and safety promotion are major thrusts for the public health and emergency services departments. More than 100,000 residents are served annually through public health clinics, classes and workshops. Regional contribution to the new hospital and Walker Family Cancer Centre amounted to \$21 million.

We established a Niagara EMS community response unit in Wellfleet, to reduce response times and provide comprehensive paramedicine to residents. The first co-located Niagara Emergency Medical Services and Niagara Regional Police Service facility was opened in Fort Erie.

Online real-time water quality monitoring was introduced for our public beaches. We implemented a water quality management system to provide consumers with high quality drinking water and effectively managed all aspects of water treatment and distribution,

from source to tap.

We developed and passed a regionwide smoke-free outdoor spaces by-law to protect people from outdoor second-hand smoke. The Mobile Dental Clinic was launched to provide free preventive dental care to children and youth at their schools.

More than one million page views have been seen over the past two years since the introduction of online access to health inspection reports of restaurants, tattoo parlours, hair and nail salons, public pools and spas.

A community-based outreach nursing program has been implemented to address the health concerns of vulnerable residents. A central immunization records system was established to streamline access to data in the event of an outbreak.

These initiatives did not make front page news but collectively add value to the lives of Niagara living up to the slogan of Niagara Region: Building Community. Building Lives.

Brian Baty is a regional councillor for Pelham and co-chair of the public health and social services committee. Brian.baty@niagararegion.ca

Shipwrecks - Golfo di Palermo

SKIP GILLHAM
For QMI Agency Niagara

The Italian freighter *Golfo di Palermo* was ten years old when it came through the St. Lawrence Seaway for the first time in 1970.

The 174.92-metre-long bulk carrier had been built at Leghorn, Italy, in 1960 and could carry 20,876 tons of cargo.

Golfo di Palermo had several owners over the years but always kept the flag of Italy flying on its stern. The ship had the misfortune of being at Basrah, Iraq, during

the war between that country and Iran and was damaged in an air attack on Sept. 22, 1980. The crew had abandoned the ship by Sept. 29 leaving it among the many other vessels wrecked by the war. These included a surprising number that had seen Great Lakes service.

When peace was restored, *Golfo di Palermo* remained idle until an area clean up of bombed out ships resulted in most being sold for scrap. The damaged hull of *Golfo di Palermo* was prepared for the trip to Alang, India, and it arrived there to be broken up on June 13, 1995.



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LOCAL NEWS

COMMUNITY

Food banks feel the heat

GRANT LAFLECHE
QMI Agency Niagara

No matter where you go in Niagara, you're going to hear the same story.

The pressure on food banks is rising. Supplies on shelves are thinning, and there is no sign the situation is going to improve.

Community Care in St. Catharines and Thorold, the Project SHARE in Niagara Falls and the Hope Centre in Welland all report a recent and dramatic spike in demand as summer draws to a close.

"It's not that donations have waned, it's that demand has shot up," said Betty-Lou Souter, CEO of Community Care. "We're running low on a lot of basics."

She said the drastic spike in demand is not confined to Niagara. It's happening at food banks across the country.

At Project SHARE, the food bank in Niagara Falls, executive director Elaine Pilach said there has been a noticeable increase in the number of families coming in asking for help.

"Normally, we would see about 100 families a day. Now we are seeing around 120," she said. "That definitely has an impact. I was just talking to my warehouse manager about going out to buy more food."

The situation is much the same in Welland, where the Hope Centre's executive director says August has been the busiest month of the summer by far.

Mark Carl said August saw a 16% jump in demand over May, June and July, with an 11% increase in the number of families with young children coming in.

He said summer can be hard on parents for two reasons.

First, having the kids at home means schools aren't providing meals so daily food costs go up. And back-to-school costs can put such a significant dent in a parent's budget, they have no choice but to go to a food bank for help.

Souter said the stresses of a poor economy and back-to-school costs has resulted in basic items like macaroni and cheese, juice and canned soup running out.

Additionally, there has been recent criticism of food banks for stocking up on items like canned soups and other processed foods that typically have higher sugar or salt content than fresh food.

"Some people are saying food banks should only have healthier options. And we do try to get as much healthy food and fresh produce as we can, but people also need a full stomach," Souter said.

She said the food bank is urging farmers to donate some of their homegrown food.

"Most farmers don't know they get a tax break for donating their produce to a food bank," she said.

In Niagara Falls, Pilach is also pushing for more produce, asking residents with gardens to consider bringing food in. She said she has started to see people who used to be supporters of the food bank coming in as clients.

"I hear it a lot now," she said. "People are saying, 'I used to donate to you, but now I need your help.' We have more people without work, which means more people who need help but also fewer people who can donate."

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BOB TYMCZYK / STAFF PHOTO

Volunteers Meredith Lichty and Ted Oakes at the food bank in St. Catharines, where they are running short on staples like canned fish and macaroni.

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LOCAL NEWS

ROAD SAFETY

The new DWI — driving while intoxicated

BOB HOULE
QM Agency Niagara

It's the new DWI — driving while intoxicated.

Niagara Regional medical officer of health Dr. Valerie Jaeger coined the phrase at a news conference last Wednesday at Niagara Regional Police headquarters in St. Catharines. The media event was put together by the Niagara Regional Road Safety Committee, which as part of its Think and Drive Campaign is shifting focus to the problem of distracted driving.

The committee, with members from the NRP,

OPP, Niagara Parks Police, CAA Niagara and Niagara Region's public works and public health departments, noted OPP statistics show 50% of all collisions in Ontario are the result of distracted driving, such as texting or e-mailing while behind the wheel.

"It occurred to me as I was thinking about this today, that this is the new DWI — driving while intoxicated," Jaeger said.

The focus of the distracted driving campaign is to educate drivers between the ages of 16 and 24, because Statistics Canada data shows they are the age group at the highest risk of dying in vehi-

cle collisions.

"Although there is a target to this campaign, I want to emphasize that it is everybody's business," Jaeger said, adding a recent survey of youths in the United States revealed 15% of them witnessed a parent texting while driving.

She said there were 78 deaths in the province last year attributed to distracted driving.

"And distracted driving is a factor in about 50% of all collisions," she said.

The committee aims to shine a light on the perils of distracted driving via education and advocacy campaigns, while police will

continue enforcement of a law in which the penalty for distracted driving is set to increase.

Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca said he is moving forward with plans to increase the fine to a maximum \$1,000 — double the current max of \$500 — and three demerit points.

NRP Chief Jeff McGuire said the service is "embarking on a period of increased heightened awareness, education and enforcement to combat distracted driving offences on our roadways."

Since the introduction of distracted driving legislation in 2009, McGuire said, police have maintained efforts to not only enforce the law but also educate the public on the danger of using cellphones or other forms of distraction while driving.

"The message has been delivered and repeated over

and over again, but it's quite clear ... the message is not being heard, or it's being ignored."

Expect extra enforcement on the long weekend, McGuire said.

"We're going to be doing a little bit more to help distract your driving this weekend, because if we find you driving and you're using your cellphone, we're going to distract you with some enforcement."

OPP Niagara detachment commander Staff Sgt. Jan Idzenga noted the 78 fatalities in 2013 attributed to distracted driving surpassed those that were alcohol related (57) and speed related (44).

CAA Niagara spokesman Rick Mauro put a dollar figure to a conviction for distracted driving.

Mauro said he was told by CAA home and auto insurance peers that an 18-year-

old driver with a clean driving record who has a four-year-old compact car can expect to pay approximately \$1,500 more per year in premiums after a distracted driving conviction.

"And that's based on the current consideration of distracted driving being what is seen in the insurance world as a minor offence," he said. "Should distracted driving, as we are anticipating, become a major offence, the financial consequences are much, much worse."

He said premiums for that same 18-year-old would go up 40% to 70%.

"To put that into dollars and cents, that's anywhere from \$3,400 a year to \$6,500 a year...."

"I would say that no text, tweet or e-mail has that kind of value."

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COMMUNITY EVENTS & NEWS

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **DINING INVASION:** Niagara chef revamps businesses for Cottage Life show

Adding spice to kitchen fare

JOHN LAW
QMI Agency Niagara

Victor Barry may be a mill-mannered chef from Niagara-on-the-Lake, but a poorly run kitchen can make him boil over.

The co-host of Cottage Life's new series *Dining Invasion*, premiering Friday, saw plenty that frustrated him while taping the show's 13 episodes, from cooks who didn't know the basics to chefs who resented him being there.

The show sends Barry and event planner Rebecca Wise to various struggling resorts and inns — he handles the menu while she spruces up the place. Unlike the angry tirades of *Bar Rescue*'s Jon Taffer, Barry kept his cool on camera despite what he saw.

"When you walk into a place and the head chef has never bro-

WHO: Victor Barry
WHAT: *Dining Invasion*
WHEN: Friday, 10 p.m.
CHANNEL: Cottage Life

ken down a chicken before, like, come on man," says Barry, who owns the posh Splendido restaurant in Toronto. "You've got to be kidding me."

If that wasn't enough, at the same resort Barry got the impression from the chef he wasn't needed. Which baffles him because he's there to help a struggling business.

"He just was not receptive at all," he says. "He might have looked a little receptive on television, but when all was said and done, he didn't listen to a damn thing I said."

And that's just the first episode.

From tired menus to dated atmosphere, Barry and Wise bring their big city expertise to what are often old-fashioned, family owned resorts. Most are in financial trouble, struggling to keep up with the changing hospitality industry.

Barry has seen both ends of the food spectrum, starting out at his uncle's Volcano pizzeria in Niagara Falls before he even started high school — "basically just to keep me out of trouble."

There he learned the basics of food preparation and customer service.

From there, he went to the Prince of Wales Hotel in Niagara-on-the-Lake as a high school co-op student, eventually being hired by executive chef Lee Parsons.

"I was a sponge at that point

because I didn't know anything, so anything I could learn about any kind of food, I took in," he says. "I asked so many questions. I'm sure everyone hated me because I was like, 'What's this? What's this?'"

Parsons showed the commitment required to run a kitchen — Barry would show up at 8 a.m. for the dinner shift, and Parsons would already be there.

"Hard work, discipline, and a really solid foundation for my career ahead of me," he says. "I couldn't have asked for a better place to start."

After two years as Chef de Partie at England's Gidleigh Park Hotel, Barry was asked to join the kitchen at Splendido, which he co-purchased in 2009, and became sole owner of in January.

"What's difficult in the restaur-



COTTAGE LIFE: SUBMITTED PHOTO

Former Niagara-on-the-Lake chef Victor Barry co-stars on the new Cottage Life series *Dining Invasion*, premiering Sept. 5.

ant scene is keeping yourself relevant," he says. "You open a new restaurant in Toronto, and you're good, you're going to be busy for 18 months. Just open the doors and people will come. But after that, it gets hard."

"You learn how to be not only a chef, but a businessman,

a mentor, a good manager and leader."

To film the show, Barry left a sous chef in charge of the kitchen.

"It cost me more money than I made on the show."

john.law@sunmedia.ca

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **MUSIC:** Annual Parkinson's fundraiser

Cafferty returns to headline Light of Day 8

JOHN LAW
QMI Agency/Niagara

This year's Light of Day Niagara show is going to have an '80s all-star feel.

The annual fundraiser for Parkinson's Disease will be headlined by returning favourites John Cafferty & The Beaver Brown Band, and he'll be joined by former Romantics singer Wally Palmar and Alex Ligertwood of Santana.

The line-up, announced Monday by organizer Dave Rotella, also includes Jason Heath & the Greedy Souls, Bobby Mahoney & the Seventh Son, and — tentatively — Paul Langlois of the Tragically Hip.

Light of Day regulars Joe Grushecky and Joe D'Urso will be returning as well.

"This year's lineup could be the best show we've put together in the eight years of organizing Light of Day Niagara," says Rotella. "It will be a fantastic evening of great music and Parkinson's awareness."

The show takes place Nov. 7 at the Greg Frewin Theatre. Additional shows take place Nov. 6 at the Hard Rock Cafe in Toronto, and Nov. 8 at the BluMartini in Kingston.

Securing a headliner is always a challenge for Rotella, but he knew fans would welcome back Cafferty, who played a memorable set at the 2011 show.

"I've stayed in touch with John over the past few years and we have always talked about bringing the band back to perform after their amazing set they did back in 2011," he says.

Rotella saw Cafferty play a private show a couple of months ago in which he invited musicians from 38

Special, Journey and Pablo Cruise to join him.

"It was there we got the idea to see if he'd bring a

few guests and John, as always, went above and beyond to gather up a few friends."

Fans will remember Palmar from another star-studded concert — he was part of Ringo Starr's





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Richard Brown
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All-Star Band when they played Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort in 2010.

Rotella started the show with friend Mike Minervini as Canada's answer to the popular Parkinson's fundraiser in New Jersey, which most years sees Bruce Springsteen perform. The Niagara shows have raised nearly \$200,000 over their first six years.

The Niagara shows have seen performances by Southside Johnny, Willie Nile and Gary U.S. Bonds. Ron Sexsmith played the first year.

SPECIAL TO NIAGARA FALLS REVIEW

John Cafferty and The Beaver Brown Band return for the eighth annual Light of Day Niagara concert in November.

WHAT: Light of Day Niagara 8

WHEN: Nov. 7

WHERE: Greg Frewin Theatre, 5781 Ellen Ave., Niagara Falls

TICKETS: \$20 to \$50
www.lightofdaycanada.com

"I have stood on stage with some of my musical heroes and it truly amazes me, their selflessness and generosity," says Rotella. "When this horrible disease is finally eradicated, it will feel good to know that myself and the entire community of Niagara were able to play a small part in that victory."

john.law@summedia.ca

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■ **HOCKEY:** Summit Series legends hope to build on legacy of dramatic 1972 win

Team Canada shoots for new goal

BILL SAWCHUK
OMI Agency Niagara

For those who didn't live through it, it's hard to imagine the impact of the Summit Series between Canada and the Soviet Union in 1972.

The nation was transfixed by the

hockey games, which ended with Paul Henderson scoring the series-winning goal with 34 seconds left in Game 8 in Moscow. That goal is often listed among the top 10 defining moments in Canadian history.

"If you are under 40, you might have

heard of it from your parents," said Pat Stapleton, a member of the team and a former St. Catharines junior A hockey player.

"This group has to take hold of our brand and pass it on. The best way to do that is through education. We want to capture the memories and pass them on."

Stapleton was joined by former Team Canada teammate and Hockey Hall of Famer Brad Park at the Holiday Inn Parkway Conference Centre last week to launch the Team Canada 72 National Legacy Project.

Brock University, Canada's Sports Hall of Fame and Hockey Canada are partners in the for-profit corporation that will also benefit charities.

"We need to revisit it," said Barry Wright of the Goodman School of Business at Brock University.

"As Canadians, we have so few legacy things to hang onto ... and this is one of them. It is a chance to retell the story of the team, the players and many things that happened around that team."



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SCOOTER SAFETY

Mobility scooters offer the ability to travel great distances that are not usually within walking distance. They can help you move around your home, neighbourhood and inside stores. However they can be dangerous if not used safely.

Follow these tips before you head out so you can get safely from home to your destination. Read the instruction manual upon purchase so you know the safety features and controls on your new scooter. Read the tips that are given for navigating bumps, curves and uneven ground. Some heavy duty scooters are designed for rough terrain. Learning to drive your scooter in a safe area such as a parking lot or driveway is always recommended to learn how your scooter manoeuvres in all weather. Having confirmation will make it a safer experience for you and others around you.

Some basic scooter tips include:

- Use sidewalks whenever possible. If no sidewalks exist, travel on the far left side of the road facing traffic.
- Cross at pedestrian crosswalks. Check for traffic before crossing.
- Make "eye contact" with motorists or pedestrians before crossing to make sure they are stopping.
- Obey all traffic control signs and devices.
- Slow down when travelling around pedestrians and avoid travelling too closely.
- Keep to the right on sidewalks and avoid honking your horn.
- Drive your scooter straight at a ramp. Most scooters have anti tip wheels to keep them from tipping when going angled manoeuvres.
- Your scooter should have a safety flag, reflectors and lights in the front and back so you can be seen at all times.
- Wearing a reflective safety vest is also a good idea and is essential if you have to travel at night.
- Carry a cell phone and have your emergency contact information taped onto your scooter so it is easy to find.

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Funding available to farmers

The species-at-risk farm incentive program is once again available to farmers to protect habitat for critters or fauna deemed to be at risk of extinction.

The program provides cost-sharing to farmers for on-farm investments aimed at protecting species at risk, such as planting windbreaks, setting up rotational grazing, fencing livestock out of sensitive areas and establishing buffers along watercourses.

The program, which receives funding from Environment Canada and the provincial Ministry of Natural Resources, is administered by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement

Association.

The program is available provincially. Up to \$20,000 is available to farmers for projects on land in which live species at risk. However, up to 50% cost-share funding is available to farmers for projects such as fencing and windbreaks without a focus on species at risk.

Projects initiated on or after April 1 may be eligible.

Species deemed at risk in Niagara include the Jefferson salamander, Fowler's toad, woodland vole, barn swallow and bobolink.

For more information on the program, go online at www.ontariosoilcrop.org or call the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association at 226-979-2465.

See SUMMIT SERIES on Page 11

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■ SUMMIT SERIES



Brad Park and Pat Stapleton, both defencemen on the legendary Team Canada 1972, were joined via conference call by several teammates from the Summit Series for the announcement of a national legacy project in St. Catharines on Wednesday.

Team Canada shoots for new goal

From Page 10

The project gets underway Oct. 2 with a banquet at the Holiday Inn. Tickets cost \$225. A table of eight with a Team Canada member is \$3,000. A team website is expected to be launched soon.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Niagara Children's Centre.

"We are going to reach out to the business community to work with

them," Stapleton said. "In the long run, there will be a number of functions and charities that will benefit. It's our way of giving back. We can get together and make ourselves available and do some positive things."

The players are calling it the 28,800 Project, for the total seconds Team Canada 1972 played over eight games.

"In 1972, I was only 24 years old," Park said. "I was like a young

guy trying to get my feet wet. I remember going to all-star games and the players wouldn't even talk to each other. It was a real experience to get into the dressing room and learn what they were like."

"We made a commitment to each other and that commitment lasts to this day. What we did was special, though we didn't plan on it being special. We didn't know how dramatic it was going to be."



Niagara woman a Bachelor contestant

(QMI Agency Niagara)
A St. Catharines personal support

worker has been chosen as one of 25 contestants on TV's The Bachelor Canada.

The 31-year-old woman, who goes by the name Sarah, is competing for the heart of Tim Warnels, 28, an entrepreneur and Richard Ivey School of Business graduate. Her bio lists her best attributes as loyal, honest and non-judgmental. She wants to open her own studio to teach pole dancing and yoga. She's up against an ER doctor, lingerie model, personal trainer and realtor, among others. The 10-episode reality series begins airing Sept. 18 on City TV.

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LOCAL NEWS

MUSIC

Robin Banks brings Fonthill bandshell season to a close

QMI Agency Niagara

The summer concert series at the Fonthill bandshell

comes to an end tonight with a performance by Miss Robin Banks.

Banks has a vocal style, strength and clarity that has been compared to Etta James

and Dinah Washington, and the charisma and boldness of Tina Turner.

The Canadian-born singer is a diverse, international artist comfortable with jazz, classic R&B, soul and even reggae. She's often lauded for her captivating live performance, her confident ability to connect and affect each member of her audience, her sincerity and certainly her authenticity. Robin Banks has performed with the likes of Duke Robillard, Doug James and a long list of legendary Texas, West Coast and Chicago musicians.

She was winner of new artist of the year at the Maple Blues Awards in 1997, and has been nominated three times for female vocalist of the year

at the Maple Blues Awards.

She has released four independent CDs and makes regular tours to Europe and the Caribbean, but recently made Toronto, Canada her home.

Banks' Sept. 4 performance at the bandshell in Pelham's Peace Park starts at 7 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are accepted.

For more information, visit www.fonthillbandshell.com and www.reverbnation.com/robinbanks.



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LOCAL NEWS

■ **BUSINESS:** But other opinions split over findings in report by C.D.Howe Institute

Wine council backs call for private stores

KARENIA WALTER
QMI Agency Niagara

A recent report calling for Ontario to "level the playing field" by allowing new private wine stores is being praised by the body representing close to 70 Niagara wineries.

Wine Council of Ontario has been a vocal proponent of private wine shops and launched a campaign in May to bring awareness to the issue.

"We just can't understand why the government isn't rushing to this model," said Allan Schmidt, chair of Wine Council of Ontario, which runs the PairsPerfetto.com campaign.

"It will make more money, it will expand Ontario wineries, it will create more jobs and the LCBO will actually increase their sales."

The C.D.Howe report Uncorking a Strange Brew: The Need for More Competition in Ontario's Alcoholic Beverage Retailing System, released last month says the current liquor sales system suffers from "various inefficiencies" and disadvantages for consumers.

"The quasi-monopoly enjoyed

by the LCBO and TBS (The Beer Store) imposes excessive costs on consumers, restricts their menu of choices and limits the accessibility of stores retailing alcohol," the report says.

"In addition, it imposes distortions on small domestic breweries and wineries and puts them at a competitive disadvantage relative to a few large Canadian and foreign producers."

Among recommendations in the report by Paul R. Masson and Anindya Sen is that the province sell licences to operate private off-winery stores.

The report also recommends allowing grocery and convenience stores to sell beer and wine, which is not supported by the wine council, and opening up beer retailing by licensing other retail stores.

Currently, the majority of off-winery stores — such as those in grocery stores — are operated by the two largest Canadian wine-makers, Constellation Brands runs more than 160 Wine Rack stores and Andrew Peller Ltd. has 100 Wine Shop outlets.

Those stores were grandfa-

thered in after the 1987 Free Trade Agreement with the U.S. Since that time, Ontario put a moratorium on stores and new winemakers can only sell product in the LCBO or at their wineries.

"It really disadvantages any VQA winery that's opened up in the last 25 years," said Schmidt, who is president of Vineland Estates Winery.

The Ontario Wine Council has called for a network of privately-run wine shops that would be customers of the LCBO's wholesale distribution arm. The 700 private stores would sell domestic and imported wine.

The model is similar to that in British Columbia, where Schmidt said the wine industry has boomed since the provincial government took a similar step.

He said in B.C., the wholesale division of the province's LCBO-equivalent has occupied the retail division of its own stores.

Schmidt said the B.C. government is making \$200 profit per capita in sales compared to \$121 per capita in Ontario.

"That's all the money the gov-

ernment is leaving on the table. We're talking about hundreds of millions of dollars," Schmidt said.

But Patrick Gedge, president of the Winery and Grower Alliance of Ontario, said between the LCBO's 640 stores and the agency stores, it's difficult to identify where there would be under-served areas in the province that wouldn't cannibalize existing sales.

"Why invest the energy and the dollars and the risk of setting up small networks that cannibalize what exists today when you can focus your energy on leveraging a pretty massive network that is there?" he asked.

The stance of the alliance — which represents Constellation Brands and Andrew Peller Ltd. — is that the best way to increase sales of Ontario wine and grapes is to leverage that LCBO distribution network.

Gedge said those companies don't look at other wineries in the province as the competition, but the imports taking up the market.

At the LCBO, 70% of sales are imports

and 30% are Ontario wine, he said.

"Our goal is to, quite frankly, convert imported wine drinkers who have 70% of the marketplace and bring them over to Ontario wine. If we can work at converting those people, they'll be enough business for all of the wineries," he said.

Gedge said he's never seen a business case that can objectively quantify that private systems would have significant benefits to the industry.

But Schmidt said one only has to look at B.C., where he said sales increased with new stores.

The problem, Schmidt said, is the LCBO doesn't physically have the space on its shelves for all Ontario wines.

For every new wine it introduces, another one has to go. Of the 3,000 or so VQA wines available in the province at any time, only 10 to 15% are listed with the LCBO.

"They're trying hard," Schmidt said of the LCBO. "It's an impossible task, though."

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **EARLY SCREENING:** Public health agency wants to catch disease before it's too late

Cancer fighter uses crackers, chocolate to spread her message

CHERYL CLOCK
QMI Agency Niagara

The two big marshmallows are the breasts. The pink cupcake icing, applied with a pressurized squirt to the centre of each marshmallow, are the nipples. And the two square crackers better known for their popularity around the campfire, sandwich it all together.

The result: a Mammogram.

Yes, it might look like a s'more, but instead of inspiring sing-song it's being used to encourage women to talk about mammograms, a screening for breast cancer.

Front and centre is Lara Lorge. She is part of the project now being funded by Niagara Region Public Health to promote screenings for breast, cervical and colon cancer in low-income neighbourhoods. It's called CASTLE, and Lara is its community health broker.

For more than a year, she's been building relationships in three Niagara neighbourhoods

— Rykert St. in St. Catharines, Buckley Towers in Niagara Falls and McLaughlin St. in Welland.

The idea is to help people before they get sick. To give people accurate information, and let them make an informed choice about their health, she says.

Data from Cancer Care Ontario shows fewer than 25% of Ontario women living in low-income communities are up to date on their breast and cervix cancer screenings.

The difference between low and higher-income communities for breast cancer screening is 11% and for Pap test, a screening for cervical cancer, 14%.

These stats have remained relatively unchanged since 2009.

So on this night, Lara has invited women from a Rykert St. townhouse complex owned by Niagara Regional Housing to the Community House, a gathering place tucked into the heart of the neighbourhood.



CHERYL CLOCK/STAFF PHOTO

CASTLE community health broker Lara Lorge (third from left) has come up with creative, non-traditional ways to promote screening for breast, cervical and colon cancer. From left: Tammy Mitchell, Jodi Summers, Joan Sharp, Melissa Kerton and Amy McLaughlin.

See **CANCER** on Page 15

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LOCAL NEWS

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A Great Dining Experience!

Canal canoe rentals continue in September

The Welland Recreational Canal canoe rental program will continue on weekends in September.

People of all ages are encouraged to paddle in a tandem kayak, pedal boat, kayak, canoe or try standup paddleboarding from the PenFinancial Credit Union Flatwater Community Centre.

Due to popular demand, the program will be open the first three weekends of September from 11 a.m. to dusk. Welland Recreational Canal Corp. said in a news release.

There will continue to be free rentals to all youths aged 16 and younger.

The Welland Canoe Rental Program caters to individuals looking to spend the day under the sun or to larger groups for a family outing, birthday party, social event or team-building venture.

More than 2,200 local individuals have used the rental program this season. Single kayak and pedal boat rentals start at \$12 for the first hour, with additional half-hours costing \$5. Tandem kayaks, canoes and standup paddle boards are \$18 for the first hour, with additional half-hours costing \$9.

Training tank receives \$100K for programming

The provincial government is sending a wave of funding into the Rose City.

Welland Recreational Canal Corp. announced last week the

Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport has awarded \$100,000 to the Welland Indoor Paddle Tank Program over the next two years.

The money, invested through the Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund, will provide support for tank equipment and staffing for various community programming initiatives. It will also provide for strength and conditioning equipment for the designated gym area to further improve the training venue.

The indoor training tank, unveiled in April at the Welland International Flatwater Centre, allows athletes to hone their skills on the water year-round.

Programming for the tank, which is designed for dragon boat, rowing, canoe sprint and kayak sprint, will begin on Oct. 18.



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Stevensville Garden Gallery	Bestway Bedding	Welland Tribune Subscription
Bridges to Wellness	Eggsmart	Wrigley's Sports Bar
Mick & Angelo's	Cock a Doodle Diner	Pelham Hills Golf Club
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PELHAM AREA BOOK

SEPTEMBER 4

SMART SERVICE

training at Employment Solutions, 3 East Main St., Welland, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call 905-788-3751 or e-mail reception@employment-solutions.org.

SEPTEMBER 6

HOCKEY EQUIPMENT SALE

Pelham Minor Hockey Association holds its second annual equipment trunk sale and swap, at Pelham Arena parking lot, 9 a.m. to noon. For information or to reserve a parking spot, contact Paul Wilson at thefelwellson@sympatico.ca or at 905-328-8329.

SEPTEMBER 15

STRATEGIES FOR AUTISM

Join Wendy Arscott, RSSW, BEd, MEd, in looking at ways caregivers can alleviate situations with relative ease and simplicity. Wendy is a counsellor, consultant and trainer with more than 20 years of experience. Takes place at Pelham Public Library, 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; cost \$3. Register at 905-892-6443.

SEPTEMBER 16

WIMIS

training at Employment Solutions, 3 East Main St., Welland, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call 905-788-3751 or e-mail reception@employment-solutions.org.

CARD-MAKING WORKSHOP

Make six cards with fall themes, learning a variety of techniques. Materials are provided at Pelham Public Library, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cost \$10. Register at 905-892-6443.

SEPTEMBER 17

AUTHOR READING

Terry Fallis returns to Pelham Public Library to read from *No Relation*, his fourth novel. Fallis's sharp, funny wit takes readers into the world of identity, inheritance and belonging, begging the question: "What's in a name?" He's the winner of *Canada Reads* and the *Stephen Leacock Award for Humour*. Starts 7:30 p.m.; cost \$10. Purchase tickets ahead: www.pelhamlibrary.on.ca or 905-892-6443.

SEPTEMBER 21

SPECIAL SPAN EVENT

Single Person Association of Niagara hosts a meet and greet members and tells newcomers find out what SPAN is about. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Big Mario's, Fourth Ave. and Vansickle Rd., St. Catharines. *Seating is limited, cash bar.*

FOR NIAGARA LADIES

Niagara Women's Connection invites you to an afternoon of friendship, inspiration and fun, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., at Kirk on the Hill, 1344 Haultain St., Kelham. Kelly Miller of Steeped Tea (featured on *Dragon's Den*) will talk about health benefits and fun of tea. Guest speaker is Janey Walker of Brampton. Cost \$7: coffee, tea, treats and door prizes all provided. Babysitting free of charge. RSVP to Geraldine Lackey at 905-734-1255 or Rose Hottel at 905-735-8818.

SMART SERVICE

training at Employment Solutions, 3 East Main St., Welland, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call 905-788-3751 or e-mail reception@employment-solutions.org.

SEPTEMBER 22

CLOTHING SALE

All sizes and styles, retro, accessories, bedding, curtains and more, at Pelham Public Library until Saturday, Sept. 27, when you can find a garbage bag for \$5. Donations accepted all year. Proceeds to the library.

SEPTEMBER 25

FIRST AID/CPR/AED

instruction, and on Sept. 26, at Employment Solutions, 3 East Main St., Welland, 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Call 905-788-3751 or e-mail reception@employment-solutions.org.

SEPTEMBER 27

PELHAM HIGH REUNION

1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Lipa Park, 2850 Olive Rd., North Pelham. If you were a student, staff or support staff member of the former Pelham High School in Fenwick, please join us. Cost \$10. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. For more info call 905-892-7030 or e-mail pelhamhighreunion@gmail.com.

OCTOBER 4

BOOK SALE

The University Women's Club 45th annual book sale is at the Niagara Regional Exhibition grounds, 1100 Niagara St., Welland, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Proceeds are used to award scholarships to eight local young women who will be continuing studies at university this year. Donations of newer items in excellent condition are welcomed: books, magazines, CDs, DVDs, games and puzzles. Call Beth Jeffer at 905-835-2291 or e-mail uwclubsales@yahoo.com for more information.

ONGOING

SECOND CAREER

information sessions at Employment Solutions, 3 East Main St., Welland, on Fridays 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Call 905-788-3751 or e-mail reception@employment-solutions.org to reserve a spot.

ST. ANN'S BINGO

runs in Fenwick Tuesday nights starting at 7, from Sept. 9 to Dec. 8, 834 Canboro Rd. Chance to win

\$100. Wheelchair accessible. For information call 905-892-6123. Also runs late January to first week of June.

ONTARIO SELF EMPLOYMENT

Benefit Program has free information sessions: Aug. 21, 2 p.m. at Job Gym, 905-732-7655; Aug. 28, 2 p.m., at Port Cares, 905-834-3629. Sign up to learn more about how this program can help you with starting your own business.

SCRAPPY DROP IN

Work on your latest cardmaking, stamping, papercraft or scrapbooking project. A swap table will be set out each Monday at Pelham Public Library from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30. Cost \$2.

FREE ART WORKSHOPS

Held by In The Orchard Programming for the Arts. Free Art Workshops every Thursday for ages 12+ (sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture). Where: The Happy Place Art Studio, 1433 Pelham St.

ROSE CITY TOASTMASTERS

Have fun and improve your communication skills, for free at any community location. Meetings every Thursday for ages 12+. Summer meetings: July 10 23 and Aug. 7 and 20, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Lower Community Room of Welland Arena, 501 King St., Welland. Find toastmastersclubs.org.

SPAN

(Single Person Association of Niagara) is a social club since 1982 for mature singles who meet and mingle at Iggy's Pub, 115 Hwy. 20, Fortnith, every Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Offers members a monthly calendar of social activities. Further information, call Lynne at 905-788-0359.

BEGINNER BRIDGE

Learn as you play, at Pelham Public Library. Ed Hills, a certified instructor with the ACBL and ABTA, will walk you through your first steps. Monday, Aug. 11, 26 from 10 a.m. to noon. Free. Register ahead at www.pelhamlibrary.on.ca or 905-892-

6443.

INFERTILITY SUPPORT GROUP

Niagara meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. for anyone experiencing primary infertility. Call or text 288-821-4606 or e-mail infertility@niagara@hotmail.com for location or more information.

WELLAND RIVER KEEPERS

meets the third Tuesday of every month at Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority office, 250 Thurlow St., Welland, 7:30 p.m. More info, 905-735-9861.

DROP-IN BRIDGE

Wednesday at Pelham library, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Come alone or with a friend. Refreshments. Call ahead for the schedule at 905-892-6443. Cost \$1.

FIBROMYALGIA MEETING

Every second Tuesday through June at Rapelle Lodge, Plymouth Rd., Welland. More info, 905-384-2254. Support, understanding and open discussion.

TGIF CRAFT AFTERNOON

The popular "yarn exchange" at Pelham Public Library has been expanded to include all kinds of crafts. Bring your yarn, needles, hooks, scrapbooking, stamping and beading supplies, fabric, etc. and trade for something you can use. All leftovers will be used for library programs or donated to a non-profit. Runs 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost \$2.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The Fonthill-Singer's Corners branch of the Women's Institute is looking for new members. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. If you would like to enjoy the fellowship and events call 905-892-6891 for more information.

A CAPELLA NIAGARA

Men's Chorus invites singers for fun, fellowship and fabulous four-part harmony at Welland Community Wellness Centre, 145 Lincoln St., Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. For information call Kerry at 289-820-6584.

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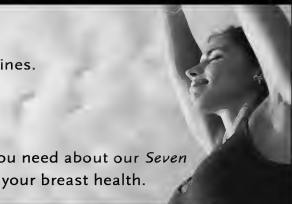
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